

Serial No. 09/785,955

Early examination and allowance are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Riess', is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel M. Riess

Registration No. 24,375

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COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO,  
CUMMINGS & MEHLER  
200 West Adams Street  
Suite 2850  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 236-8500

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On page 3, amend the second, third and fourth full paragraphs to read as follows:

These problems are solved by a support material (base paper) coated at least on the front side with a [synthetical] synthetic resin, which features a raw paper provided at least on the front side with a pigment layer, whereby the pigment layer contains [a pigment of] at least about 5 % by weight of pigment with a narrow grain size distribution, and at least 70 % of these pigment particles feature a size of less than about 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , and at least 40 % by weight of these particles feature a grain size of 0.35 to [1] 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$ .

As far as the ink-jet-applications are concerned the problem to have a low cockle may already be solved with an ink-jet-recording material comprising a raw paper as a support having at least on the front side a pigment layer, whereby the pigment layer contains [a pigment of] at least about 5 % by weight of pigment with a narrow grain size distribution, and at least 70 % of these pigment particles feature a size of less than about 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , and at least 40 % by weight of these particles feature a grain size of 0.35 to [1] 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$ . Thus, this ink-jet recording material does not have a resin coated raw paper as support.

Preferably, 50 to 80 % by weight of the particles with a smaller diameter than 1  $\mu\text{m}$  feature have a grain size of 0.35 to [1] 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$ . The proportion of the pigment with the narrow distribution can amount to 10 to 90 % by weight, and particular preferred 30 to 80 % by weight of the total pigment of the pigment layer.

On page 8, amend Table 1 and Table 2 (but not the footnotes) to read as follows:

Table 1

Component	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CaCO <sub>3</sub> [*] (d <sub>50</sub> = [0, 7] 0.7 μm)	30	30	30	100	-	-	30	50	-	70
Modified CaCO <sub>3</sub> *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-
Clay 1 **)	70	70	70	-	100	-	-	-	70	30
Clay 2 ***)	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	-	-
Talcum	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	50	-	-
Styrene/butadiene latex	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Starch	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Calcium stearate	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Application weight [g/m <sup>2</sup> ]	5	11	17	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Table 2

Component	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
CaCO <sub>3</sub> (d <sub>50</sub> = [0, 7] 0.7 μm)	30	70	100	-	-	30	50	-
Modified CaCO <sub>3</sub> *)								30
Clay 1 **)	70	30		100				70
Clay 2 ***)						70		
Talcum					100		50	
Styrene/butadiene latex	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Starch	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Calcium stearate	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Application weight [g/m <sup>2</sup> ]	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

At page 11, amend the second paragraph under the heading "Determination of Roughness" to read as follows:

In this case too, the samples according to the invention featured clearly better roughness values than the samples from V1 and V2, whereby the sample from V1 clearly fell in relation to the sample from [V1] V2.

**In the Claims:**

Amend claims 1, 11 and 14 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) Support material coated on at least one side with a synthetic resin, containing a raw paper provided at least on the front side with a pigment coating, wherein the pigment coating contains at least about 5% by weight of a pigment having particles with a narrow grain distribution with respect to the weight of the total pigment in the pigment layer, whereby at least about 70% of the pigment particles have a size of less than about  $1\mu\text{m}$  and at least 40% by weight of the particles have a grain size of 0.35 to  $0.8\mu\text{m}$ .

11. (Twice Amended) Process for the manufacture of a support material coated on at least one side with a synthetic resin, containing a raw paper provided at least on the front side with a pigment coating, applying [the] a coating containing at least one pigment on the front side of [a] the raw paper, at least about 5% by weight of the pigment having particles with a narrow grain distribution with respect to the weight of the total pigment in the pigment layer, whereby at least about 70% of the pigment particles have a size of less than about  $1\mu\text{m}$ , and at

least 40% by weight of the particles have a grain size of 0.35 to 0.8 $\mu$ m, and applying a resin on the side of the raw paper coated with the pigment, by extrusion, at a speed of up to 600 m/min.

14. (Twice Amended) Support material for an ink-jet recording sheet comprising a raw paper provided at least on the front side with a pigment coating, wherein the pigment coating contains at least about 5% by weight of a pigment having particles with a narrow grain distribution with respect to the weight of the total pigment in the pigment layer, whereby at least about 70% of the pigment particles have a size of less than about 1 $\mu$ m and at least 40% by weight of the particles have a grain size of 0.35 to 0.8 $\mu$ m.